

REMARKS

Paragraph 1 has been amended to update related application information.

Claims 2-12 are pending. Previously pending claims 2-9 were allowed in the Notice of Allowance dated December 21, 2004. Original claim 1 was canceled previously. Previously allowed claims have been amended to more precisely define inventions. In claim 3 the reference to sugar was removed from the Markush group and claim 4 has been amended to recite that the media is chelated with a metal. New Claim 10 provides a similar limitation. Claims 11 and 12 further define the inventions of claims 4 and 10 respectively by reciting that the media is cross-linked agarose which is chelated with nickel

Applicant submits that the foregoing does not alter the previously indicated patentability of the inventions recited in the claims. Applicant respectfully solicits entry of and favorable consideration of this amendment filed pursuant to the Request for Continued examination. If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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